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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Nicaragua

SUBJECT Road Information

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "The Pan-American highway from Managua to the Costa Rican border at Peñas Blancas is an all-weather two-lane road. The highway is paved with asphalt as far as Rivas, approximately 67 miles from Managua. The 21 miles from Rivas to Peñas Blancas is macadamized. It is estimated that bridges on the road will support a maximum gross weight of 20 tons.
2. "At present a two-lane macadamized highway is being constructed from Managua to Leon; some eight miles have been completed to date Dec 52. A modern two-lane concrete highway runs 20 miles northeast from the town of Masachapa on the Pacific Coast to the Pan-American highway at Las Conchitas. Bridges on this road are likewise thought to be capable of a 20-ton gross load. A macadamized road 14 miles long connects Granada on Lake Nicaragua with Mandamé on the Pan-American highway.
3. "A number of unpaved unimproved roads are indicated on the 'ESSO' road map of the Pacific coastal area. These are open only in the dry season from January or February to April or May. The dry season actually starts in mid-December. However, unpaved roads are leveled with bulldozers and it is often late in January before a summertime road is finally opened. (I would like to point out here that, in my experience, the ESSO road map of Nicaragua is very reliable.)
4. "The Pan-American highway to the Honduran border from Managua crosses the Nicaraguan Depression. A macadamized all-weather road parallels the northeast side of Lake Nicaragua from San Benito where it connects with the Pan-American highway to Acoyapa, a distance of 70 miles. This road lies at an average distance of 10 miles from the lake shore. The road turns to the northeast at Acoyapa and continues for about 25 miles to Villa Somoza. Perhaps 36 miles of highway need to be completed to connect Villa Somoza with Rama on the Rio Escondido. I judge that the road will be completed from Villa Somoza to the Rio Escondido sometime in early 1955. Once this highway is finished, travel from Managua to Bluefields, on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, will be relatively easy.

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5. "On the 'H30' map of Nicaragua a stretch of road is indicated between Villa Somosa and Quinana; however I always heard Villa Somosa referred to as the end of the road. The road from San Juan del Sur to Rivas is used only in the summertime but would required little work to be converted to an all-weather road."

-end-

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